

REMARKS

The Office Action rejected the claims. Applicants added new claims 15-39. Claims 1-39 remain. Applicant requests that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection. A Petition for a one (1) month extension of time accompanies this Amendment as a separate paper.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

The Office Action rejected claims 1-14 as being anticipated by United States Patent Number 6,516,239 to Madden *et al.* ("Madden"). Applicants assert that the rejection was improper and must be withdrawn. Specifically, Madden fails to disclose or to suggest all of the claimed features.

With respect to claims 1-5, independent claim 1 recites, *inter alia*, the step of "generating a tag for affixing to [the] part." Although describing "printers 210" (col. 16, line 65) and what they could produce, Madden lacks any discussion of utilizing the output as provided in the claim.

With respect to claims 6-11, independent claim 6 recites, *inter alia*, a step of generating output from the computer that "a user reviews ... and handles ... accordingly." Madden fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. In fact, Madden describes (*see, e.g.*, column 10, lines 37-46) "conveyors, switching points and [a] controller" that routes the vehicle through the assembly line.

With respect to claims 12 and 13, independent claim 12 recites, *inter alia*, the step of "generating tailored work instructions." Madden fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. Madden tailors vehicle

routing instructions, not the work to be performed on the vehicle, so that vehicles with common characteristics reach final assembly as a lot.

Claim 14 recites, *inter alia*, the step of "determining whether [the] second part disposition requires adjustment of [the] first part disposition." Madden fails to disclose or to suggest such a feature. It does not appear that Madden considers earlier vehicle routing decisions when making the current vehicle routing decision. For at least these reasons, the rejection was improper and must be withdrawn. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Newly Added Claims

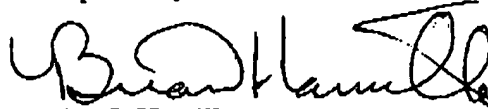
Applicants added new claims 15-39. Applicants do not introduce new matter. Support for the newly added claims appears in the disclosure as originally filed. For example, support for claims 15, 16, 19, 22, 26, 29 and 33 appears in paragraph 1; support for claims 17, 18, 20, 21, 24, 25, 31 and 32 appears in original claims 3 and 4; support for claim 27 appears in original claim 5; support for claims 28 and 39 appears in paragraph 88; support for claims 23 and 38 appears in paragraphs 64 and 76; support for claim 30 appears in paragraphs 64, 68 and 73; and support for claims 34-37 appears in claims 1, 6, 12 and 14, respectively. The newly added claims define inventions that are patentable over the cited references.

Conclusion

In light of the foregoing, Applicants submit that the claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw the rejection. Applicants solicit the allowance of claims 1-39 at an early date.

Applicants authorize the Commissioner to charge the \$936 fee due under 37 CFR 1.16(b) and (c) for the presentation of claims in excess of twenty ($10 \times \$18 = \180) and independent claims in excess of three ($9 \times \$84 = \756) and any other fees due with this Amendment, or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account Number 21-0279.

Respectfully submitted,



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